

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/R:LAWIESNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185142

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE INFO USUN, SAIGON AND CAN THO

FROM PHNOM PENH SEPT. 17, REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 9907

FOR STATE /AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, CB

SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES

REF: CAN THO 0719(NOTAL)

1. WE ARE OPPOSED TO REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIAN
REFUGEES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AT THIS TIME. GIVEN THE SITUATION HERE,
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BRING ADDITIONAL REFUGEES TO CAMBODIA.

2. THE GKR REFUGEE PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL ACTION AND REFUGEES. BOTH THE MINISTRY AND ITS PROGRAM
ARE FEEBLE AND UNABLE TO COPE WITH REFUGEES IN COUNTRY, TO SAY
NOTHING ABOUT TRANSPORTING AN ADDITIONAL 15,000 REFUGEES FROM
VIETNAM AND THEN BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF
THE REFUGEES HERE. SINCE THE GKR DOES NOT CONTROL MUCH TERR-
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ITORY, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND A PRACTICAL PLACE IN

WHICH TO RESETTLE THEM.

3. THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL ACTION AND REFUGEES HAS ALREADY INDICATED TO THE EMBASSY THAT HE WILL NEED \$2 MILLION TO TRANSPORT THE REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM. WE HAVE GIVEN HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AID FUNDING THIS TRANSPORTATION.

4. WE ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IS WITHOLDING ASSISTANCE TO THE CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN VIETNAM. OF ALL THE CAMBODIAN REFUGEES, THESE DO SEEM TO FIT THE UN DEFINITION. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY UN ASSISTANCE TO THE SERIOUS REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN COUNTRY, IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHY THE UN CANNOT AT LEAST HELP THE CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WHO ARE OUT OF COUNTRY.

5. WE REQUEST STATE/AID APPROACH THE UN WITH REGARD TO PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN VIETNAM UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE MILITARY SITUATION HERE PERMITS THEIR REPATRIATION.

6. FOR CAN THO: WITH REGARD TO PARA 4 A REFTTEL, WE ASSUME YOU MEAN KOMPONG SOM. IF NOT, PLEASE CLARIFY.
ENDERS

UNQUOTE RUSH

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